

**OFFICIAL
February 22, 2016**

**LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE
LINCOLN, RHODE ISLAND
MINUTES**

DATE: January 25, 2016
PLACE: Lincoln High School
135 Old River Road
Lincoln, RI 02865
TIME: 6:00 PM – Open Session

School Committee Members Present: Kristine Donabedian, Chair; Mary Anne Roll, Vice Chair; John Carroll, Clerk; Tracey Cavanaugh, John LaFleur, Staci Rapko-Bruckner.
Also, Julie Zito (late arrival)

Others Present: Georgia Fortunato, Superintendent; Alec Ciminello, Caroline Frey, Patricia Gablinske, Mark Gadbois, Heidi Godowski, Kevin McNamara, Armand Milazzo, Lori Miller, Reza Sarkarati, Rosemary Stein, Maryann Struble

I. Budget Workshop (Open Session)

a. Consideration and Discussion of Proposed 2016-2017 Operating and Capital Budgets

Superintendent Fortunato commended the principals, teachers and administration for creating their budgets using the zero based budget methodology; they asked only for essential items. She noted the Business Manager did an outstanding job preparing this budget. Lori Miller and the Superintendent met with the budget subcommittee to review the budget line by line. Fortunato credited Chairwoman Kristine Donabedian with the idea that helped them look at things through a different lens. The Superintendent reported the 2016-17 proposed budget is \$54,196,776, an increase of 4% or \$2,204,108 over the 2015-16 budget of \$52,092,668. The budget drivers are: preschool and elementary enrollment, technology related hardware, Charter/Vocational school tuitions, special education tuitions and plummeting Medicaid revenue. The unbudgeted positions are a K classroom at Northern, a grade 1 classroom at Central and a .2 Speech & Language teacher. The Union contracts have been settled with a 1% salary increase for top step certified staff and support staff. Salary reductions include a special ed position at the middle school, a nurse and English teacher at the high school. Additions to staff will be to increase the Athletic Director to full time, adding a grade 3 at Central, grade 1 at Northern and a Health & PE position. Superintendent Fortunato explained the addition of a Custodian-Floater for Ferguson Field to assist with the addition of a concession stand and bathrooms.

The medical budget for 2015-16 was \$5,058,453 and the proposed is \$5,172,804, a difference of 4% or \$114,351. The employer rate for 2015-15 was 13.73% and for 2016-17 \$13.18, a .55% decrease and the pension budget for 2015-16 was \$3,979,927 and for 2016-17 \$3,843,153, a decrease of \$136,774.

Budgeted purchased services of special ed out of district tuitions are \$225,070; Charter School Tuitions \$276,166 and transportation \$130,528, a 1.2% increase. Technology related hardware and equipment are as follows:

Lonsdale \$40,720; Central \$58,800; Saylesville \$58,800; Northern \$42,860
LHS \$53,458

Superintendent Fortunato presented 2015-16 current revenue from Medicaid of \$265,530, noting that not all out of district tuitions are Medicaid eligible. The local appropriation of \$40,705,952 for 2015-16 and proposed for 2016-17 is \$42,271,181. RIDE's state aid projection for 2016-17 is proposed at \$11,175,595 and Medicaid reimbursement for \$750,000 for a total budget of \$54,196,776. The increase for the local share is 3.85% or \$1,565,229.

Chairwoman Donabedian commented that the subcommittee found this process better, too. They examined the impact of some of the Superintendent's recommendation, one being the proposed custodian for Ferguson Field. The subcommittee recommended reductions in negotiations, custodial subs and fringe benefits. John Carroll presented reductions in purchased services totaling \$91,978. Tracey Cavanaugh presented reductions in athletic supplies, property, dues and fees and an increase in breakage for a total reduction of \$622,495. The Chair reviewed the local appropriation of \$1,648,686, the projected RIDE state aid figure of \$11,175,595 and Medicaid reimbursement of \$750,000 for a total budget of \$53,574,281, a 2.32% increase or \$942,734 increase in local share.

Staci Rapko-Bruckner expressed concern for the reduction in a special educator at Lincoln Middle School. She also went on the record that she is not comfortable with the high school reform position. Rapko-Bruckner also was concerned for making sure students have classroom supplies. Mary Anne Roll commented on the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. The Superintendent stated the Athletic Director will still be part of the union; it has to be negotiated to be removed. John LaFleur requested clarification of the additional custodian's compensation not being covered by rental fees and the Superintendent explained the rental fees will partially cover the custodian, but the custodian is needed for the field when used by students and others.

Superintendent Fortunato presented the total Capital Budget of \$908,506.80. The budget for each school is as follows:

High School/Ferguson Field \$300,000; Northern Elementary \$64,500; Middle School \$62,500; Central Elementary \$344,132.80; Lonsdale Elementary \$58,874; Saylesville Elementary \$55,000

A video was shown for the window security film that has the support of the Lincoln police department. It was noted the Building & Grounds Director is working on a free boiler for Central Elementary which would decrease that budget.

The budget for the Administration building is for a new Ford E450 Utility truck which is part of the vehicle replacement program. John LaFleur noted in the past they would present a budget to the Budget Board and let them decide what to cut, but this year the School Committee narrowed down the request to what they truly need.

- II. Vote to Approve 2016-2017 School Committee Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets
Motion to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget as presented with reductions by the budget subcommittee by Roll. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve the proposed Capital Budget as presented by Roll. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- III. Community Comments – None.

- IV. Adjourn

Motion to approve adjourning at 7:00 PM by Rapko-Bruckner. Seconded by Carroll. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

JOHN CARROLL, CLERK

DATE